

APPLICATION NO. 09/943,131
DOCKET NO. P1048/N8802

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the above-captioned application, all of which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Shane et al. (U.S. 3,404,061). Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 17 are amended herein in order to more clearly define and fully protect Applicants' invention.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the interview on 11 December 2003, between Examiner Bahta, Julian Norley, Director of Research and Development for Electronic Thermal Management for Applicants, and the undersigned. During the interview, the Shane et al. reference was discussed, and it was pointed out that although Shane et al. discloses resin impregnation of flexible graphite as well as compression of exfoliated graphite particles and flexible graphite sheet, there is no reference or suggestion in Shane et al. of pressure curing resin-impregnated flexible graphite sheets.

More particularly, the present invention relates to the surprising finding that curing resin impregnated flexible graphite sheets at pressures of from 1,000 to 5,000 psi leads to the creation of flexible graphite sheets having extraordinarily high in-plane thermal conductivities, which can rival or even exceed those of copper, but at substantially reduced weight. The amendments made to the claims herein more clearly set out the pressure cure which distinguishes the invention from the Shane et al. disclosure.

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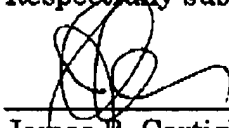
Thus, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of all claims 1-20 is believed appropriate and is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly sought. If there remains any matter which prevents the allowance of any of these claims, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned, collect, at 615-242-2400 to arrange for another interview which may further expedite prosecution.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this Response to Deposit Account 50-1202.

Respectfully submitted,



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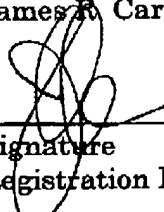
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

I hereby certify that this Response To Official Action (6 pages), including Certificate of Facsimile Transmittal (1 page) and Facsimile Cover Letter (1 page) are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 305-5408.

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12/17/03

Date